



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus —

PRAIRIE POTHOLES

Multiple basins- Located in the western part of the state, these sites provide important waterfowl breeding and production areas.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Grass Lake and Straight River in south central Minnesota and the Glacial Ridge Project in northwestern Minnesota are the three special project areas

PARTNERSHIPS

Combining WRP with the Reinvest in Minnesota Program or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service programs restores more acres than each program could do individually. Partners share technical and administrative resources.

Another partnership with Ducks Unlimited and the Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA)/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has accelerated technical assistance to producers and restoration activities.



Minnesota Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements and restoration cost-share agreements.

Through the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources lottery proceeds are being used to accelerate WRP in identified critical fish and wildlife habitat corridors.

Accomplishments

In Federal Fiscal Year 2001 (FY01) 48 easements were funded on 6,464 acres at a total cost of \$6,806,000. 1390 acres were restored during FY01, including 637 acres of emergent fresh water wetlands, 739 acres of grasses and forbs and 14 acres of shrubs and trees. The grasses, forbs and shrubs provide a buffer to the wetland areas.

Total WRP enrollment in Minnesota is now at 255 contracts on 26,933 acres at a total cost of \$25,510,000. WRP remains a popular program with Minnesota landowners. The current backlog of priority unfunded applications is nearing 20 million dollars.

In July, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Glacial Ridge Project in northwest Minnesota. 10,700 project acres have been funded by the WRP to date with an additional 14,000 acres waiting to be funded in this project area. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and 10 private landowners make up the existing contracts.

Program Benefits

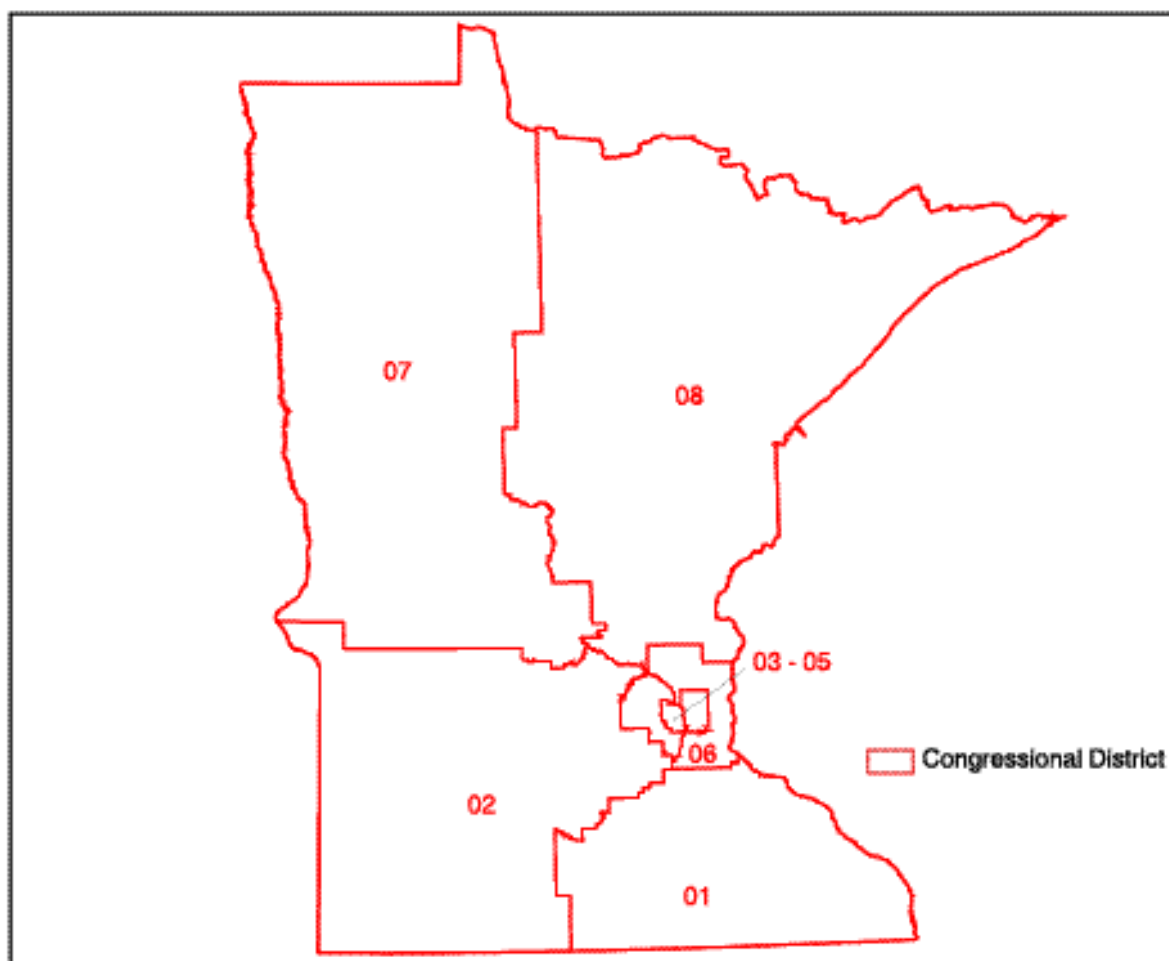
Restoring sites associated with the Prairie Pothole region has been one of the primary goals. A priority has been placed on multiple basin large-scale projects. The desired outcomes with these restoration projects focus on waterfowl production. Another focus is connecting corridors at a project level. This includes three Special Projects – Grass Lake, Straight River and the Glacial Ridge Project. Grass Lake and Straight River are multiple landowner efforts that when complete will restore thousands of acres to native ecosystems benefiting a wide array of migratory species. A wide variety, of migratory species, threatened and endangered species and habitat will be benefited.

Partnership efforts have provided long-term natural resource benefits. NRCS has worked closely with the State Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on easement purchases and restorations. NRCS purchases a 30 year easement and the State of Minnesota acquires perpetual protection with the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. Administrative and technical duties are shared and the partnership yields much more than we could have done individually. NRCS also works with Ducks Unlimited (DU), The Minnesota Waterfowl Association and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to accelerate restoration efforts through increased technical assistance to landowners.

State contact

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Minnesota Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Minnesota Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$2,567,371	22	\$9,436,588	117
District 2	\$1,725,332	11	\$6,583,972	95
District 3	0	0	\$259,197	8
District 4	0	0	0	0
District 5	0	0	0	0
District 6	0	0	44,071	2
District 7	\$2,512,982	15	\$9,186,603	33
State Totals	\$6,805,685	48	\$25,510,431	255

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